



Welcome to the *Green Power News Update*. This is a summary of the stories that ran during **January, 2015**. New stories are added throughout the month to make sure you always know what is happening in our fast-changing industry. Check back often to see what's new!

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[Previous issues](#)

[In this issue:](#)

### Green Power

- EPA Releases Updated Top Green Power Partner Lists
- Four Corners Wind Resource Center webinar available online
- Energy Department Accepting Applications for a \$3.6 Million Hydroelectric Production Incentive Program
- SRP, NFL & Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee Partner to Supply Green Energy for Super Bowl XLIX
- Green Power Partnership Program Update for January 13, 2015
- Details Posted, Registration Open for 2015 UVIG Forecasting Workshop
- Wind power saved electricity consumers during last year's 'polar vortex,' trade group says
- Webinar describes utility trends in adopting community solar programs

### Reports and Studies

- NREL Releases the 2013 Renewable Energy Data Book, Detailing Increases in Installed Capacity
- One in 78 New Jobs in America is a Solar Job
- Berkeley Lab Illuminates Price Premiums for U.S. Solar Home Sales
- Find Energy Education Resources in a Snap with New Search Tool
- Distributed PV Interconnection: Recent Analysis Findings
- U.S. Residential Photovoltaic System Prices Fall More than 45% between 2010 and 2013

### Funding

- Weekly Federal Funding Opportunities Update
- State and Local Technical Assistance Program Alerts
- Weekly Federal Funding Opportunities Update
- Weekly Federal Funding Opportunities Update
- Funding Opportunities, Upcoming Events, and News

## Green Power

### **EPA Releases Updated Top Green Power Partner Lists**

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Power Partnership released updated lists of the top Green Power Partners that are choosing to use electricity from clean, renewable sources.

New to the National Top 100 list are: National Hockey League (No. 17), American Express (No. 50), Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (No. 86), and Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (No. 100). Intel Corporation continues to top the list, using more than three billion kilowatt-hours of green power annually to cover 100 percent of its electricity load. Five additional Partners on the National Top 100 list increased their annual green power use, including Microsoft Corporation, which has moved up to number two in rankings with a green power total of more than 2.4 billion kilowatt-hours for its U.S. operations.

*Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 1/27/15*

### **Four Corners Wind Resource Center webinar available online**

In case you missed it or just want to see it again, the Four Corners Wind Resource Center's webinar, *Building Utility-Scale Wind: permitting and regulation for county decision-makers*, and accompanying slide shows are now available on our website.

This webinar covers lessons learned in the permitting of utility-scale wind projects and the development of ordinances and regulations for governing project development. Learn from county experts and the policy analysts at the Four Corners Wind Resource Center.

*Source: Four Corners Wind Resource Center, 1/27/15*

### **Energy Department Accepting Applications for a \$3.6 Million Hydroelectric Production Incentive Program**

The Energy Department today announced an incentive program for developers adding hydroelectric power generating capabilities to existing [non-powered dams](#) throughout the United States.

Hydropower is the nation's leading source of renewable energy and helps the country avoid over 200 million metric tons of carbon emissions each year, while providing about 7 percent of our electricity. More than 80,000 non-powered dams throughout the country provide services such as regulating local waterways and controlling inland navigation. Equipping local, non-powered dams with generating capabilities has the potential to provide up to 12 gigawatts, renewable energy at a lower cost than creating new powered dam structures, without impacting critical habitats, parks, or wilderness areas. The funding opportunity announced today supports developers who have already added electrical generating capacity to these existing facilities.

*Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 1/15/15*

### **SRP, NFL & Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee Partner to Supply Green Energy for Super Bowl XLIX**

*SRP Will Provide 100% Renewable Energy for Super Bowl XLIX*

Salt River Project, on behalf of the Arizona Super Bowl Host Committee, is partnering with the NFL Environmental Program to provide green energy for Super Bowl XLIX on Sunday, Feb. 1, at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale.

"Providing green energy to the game is the perfect opportunity to showcase SRP's commitment to renewable energy," said Tom Cooper, SRP director of Resource Planning and Development. "It also helps raise awareness of the role renewable energy plays in a balanced portfolio designed to deliver affordable, reliable power to our customers."

*Source: Salt River Project, 1/13/15*

## **Green Power Partnership Program Update for January 13, 2015**

In this edition of the *Green Power Partnership Program Update*:

- [2014 in Review: GPP Keeps Growing](#)
- [New NREL Report: Status and Trends in the U.S. Voluntary Green Power Market](#)
- [Upcoming Webinar: State of the Voluntary Market](#)
- [Participate in GPP's On-site Renewables Challenge](#)
- [Partner Spotlight: Vin de Set](#)
- [Welcome New Partners!](#)
- [Changes to Green Power Partnership Requirements](#)
- [Dates to Remember in 2015](#)
- [Past Issues](#)

*Source: EPA Green Power Partnership, 1/13/15*

## **Details Posted, Registration Open for 2015 UVIG Forecasting Workshop**

The Utility Variable Generation Integration Group (UVIG) is pleased to announce the 2015 edition of its premier industry event, the VG Forecasting Workshop. This two-day event will be held February 18-19, 2015 at the Sheraton Denver West Hotel.

The primary audience for this workshop includes participants in the UVIG Operating Impacts and Integration Study User Group, and the Distributed Generation User Group, as well as other UVIG members. The workshop is open to employees of UVIG member organizations and invited guests. [Registration](#) is now available.

*Source: Utility Variable Generation Integration Group, 1/12/15*

## **Wind power saved electricity consumers during last year's 'polar vortex,' trade group says**

With temperatures plunging again, the wind industry's trade group said last year's "polar vortex" was tempered for consumers by the availability of wind energy.

The American Wind Energy Association said its analysis shows electricity consumers saved \$1 billion when utilities shifted to wind power as natural gas spot prices escalated during a cold snap in January 2014.

*Source: NewsOK, 1/9/15*

## **Webinar describes utility trends in adopting community solar programs**

Western Area Power Administration and the Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) are teaming up to present a webinar that explores the utility's role in the community solar market segment on Feb. 4, 2015, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Mountain Standard Time.

*Source: Solar Electric Power Association, 1/8/15*

**Visit U.S. DOE EERE [Green Power Network](#) for more information.**

## **Reports and Studies**

### **NREL Releases the 2013 Renewable Energy Data Book, Detailing Increases in Installed Capacity**

The newly released [2013 Renewable Energy Data Book](#) illustrates United States and global energy statistics, including renewable electricity generation, renewable energy development, clean energy investments, and technology-specific data and trends. The Data Book is produced and published annually by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) on behalf of the Energy Department's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

"The 2013 Renewable Energy Data Book is an important resource for policymakers, analysts, and investors worldwide," NREL Energy Analyst Sean Esterly said. "Renewable energy trends are displayed in an accessible format for a variety of audiences."

*Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 1/20/15*

### **One in 78 New Jobs in America is a Solar Job**

Today marks an important day for America's clean energy economy with the release of The Solar Foundation's annual [National Solar Jobs Census](#), which shows the solar industry's explosive growth is creating thousands of new, highly skilled jobs throughout the country. As of November 2014, the solar industry employs 173,807 workers, representing a growth rate of nearly 22 percent over the previous year.

*Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 1/15/15*

### **Berkeley Lab Illuminates Price Premiums for U.S. Solar Home Sales**

*Largest-ever study quantifies the value of rooftop photovoltaics on homes that sold across eight states and 12 years*

A multi-institutional research team of scientists led by the U.S. Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory (Berkeley Lab), in partnership with Sandia National Laboratories, universities, and appraisers found that home buyers consistently have been willing to pay more for homes with host-owned solar photovoltaic (PV) energy systems—averaging about \$4 per watt of PV installed—across various states, housing and PV markets, and home types. This equates to a premium of about \$15,000 for a typical PV system. The team analyzed almost 22,000 sales of homes, almost 4,000 of which contained PV systems in eight states from 2002 to 2013—producing the most authoritative estimates to date of price premiums for U.S. homes with PV systems.

*Source: Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, 1/13/15*

## **Find Energy Education Resources in a Snap with New Search Tool**

From planning lessons to grading papers, being a teacher is an intense, time-consuming job. For educators interested in teaching students about energy, it can be difficult to quickly find accurate and reliable information that can be easily incorporated into the classroom. This is now more important than ever because energy is an essential concept in the Next Generation Science Standards, which have been adopted by 12 states and the District of Columbia so far.

To help address this challenge, we launched a web search tool that enables educators and the public to access all of the [Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's](#) free educational materials to teach students about clean energy technologies and other related topics.

*Source: DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 1/7/15*

## **Distributed PV Interconnection: Recent Analysis Findings**

**Jan. 21, 2015**

**11:30 AM Mountain Time**

[Register now](#) for the first Distributed Generation Interconnection Collaborative (DGIC) quarterly meeting and informational webinar of 2015!

National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) will present the results of forthcoming DGIC data collection and analysis measuring the timeframes for discrete stages of the interconnection process. The analysis uses system level data for more than 30,000 PV systems installed from 2012 to 2014, across 87 utility territories and 16 states. The data covers utility interconnection application review and approval, PV construction, final jurisdiction building inspection and permission to operate.

Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) will follow NREL with a presentation of its recent survey of utility interconnection practices. The SEPA study finds that utilities confront common challenges as they move towards more streamlined interconnection application processing. Those challenges include keeping customers up-to-date on the status of their application, ensuring application accuracy and completeness, communicating with customers and determining what technical information and how much to collect for reporting purposes.

NREL and SEPA jointly facilitate the DGIC, with advisory support from the Western Area Power Administration and the Electric Power Research Institute. Quarterly DGIC meetings focus on current and emergent processes and protocols for the interconnection of distributed PV, with the goal of encouraging stakeholders to share information and data.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

*Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory, 1/7/15*

## **U.S. Residential Photovoltaic System Prices Fall More than 45% between 2010 and 2013**

*Pricing for Cash Purchase vs Solar Leasing also Evaluated for the California Market*

The installed price of residential photovoltaic (PV) systems in the United States dropped an estimated 46% between the fourth quarter of 2010 and the fourth quarter of 2013, and prices are expected to continue to decline over the next several years due to reductions in equipment costs and streamlined installation practices. In addition, the report examines differences between installed prices and solar leasing prices.

The new report from the Energy Department's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), U.S. Residential Photovoltaic (PV) System Prices, Q4 2013 Benchmarks: Cash Purchase, Fair Market Value, and Prepaid Lease Transaction Prices, expands on residential pricing trends recently published by NREL and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

*Source: National Renewable Energy Laboratory Energy Analysis, 12/18/14*

Find more [publications and webinars](#).

## Funding

### Weekly Federal Funding Opportunities Update

Eight opportunities totaling over \$129 million in federal financial assistance were released this week, soliciting proposals in the major program areas of:

- Academic Programs
- Alternative & Renewable Energy
- Coal
- Hydropower
- Natural Gas & Oil
- Transportation & Infrastructure
- Wildlife, Conservation, & Fisheries

This list of opportunities has been released since January 20, 2015, as well as those expiring by February 16, 2015. Visit the Van Ness Feldman [Knowledge Center](#) to learn more.

*Source: Van Ness Feldman LLP, 1/20/15*

### State and Local Technical Assistance Program Alerts

The Technical Assistance Program (TAP) provides state, local, and tribal officials with resources to advance successful, high-impact, and long-lasting clean energy policies, programs, and projects. You can "tap" into these resources by exploring our online resource library, past trainings, and upcoming events calendar by visiting the State and Local Solution Center.

- [State Energy Program Funding Opportunity Announcement](#)

#### **Applications due March 31, 2015**

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's (EERE's) State Energy Program (SEP) seeks applications for Fiscal Year 2015 Competitive Financial Assistance Awards.

This competitive Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) will allow states to compete for EERE funding for state energy planning or innovative energy efficiency and renewable energy practices.

- [\*\*USDA Energy Audit and Renewable Energy Development Assistance Grants\*\*](#)

**Applications due Feb. 12, 2015**

The Department of Agriculture Rural Business Cooperative-Service Agency, under the Rural Energy for America Program, is accepting applications for Energy Audit & Renewable Energy Development Assistance Program (EA/REDA) grants to establish programs to assist agricultural producers and rural small businesses with evaluating energy efficiency and the potential to incorporate renewable energy technologies into their operations.

Eligible entities include units of state, tribal, or local governments and their instrumentalities; institutions of higher education; rural electric cooperatives; public power entities; resource development and conservation districts; grant writers; and resource providers.

*Source: DOE EERE Technical Assistance Program, 1/22/15*

[\*\*Weekly Federal Funding Opportunities Update\*\*](#)

Six opportunities totaling over \$189 million in federal financial assistance were released this week, soliciting proposals in the major program areas of:

- Academic Programs
- Alternative & Renewable Energy
- Indian Affairs
- Water

This list of opportunities has been released since January 7, 2015, as well as those expiring by February 2, 2015.

Visit the Van Ness Feldman [Knowledge Center](#) to learn more.

*Source: Van Ness Feldman LLP, 1/7/15*

[\*\*Weekly Federal Funding Opportunities Update\*\*](#)

Thirteen opportunities totaling over \$54 million in federal financial assistance were released this week, soliciting proposals in the major program areas of:

- Academic Programs
- Alaska
- Alternative & Renewable Energy
- Department of Defense Energy
- Environment
- Indian Affairs
- Multi-disciplinary Research
- Transportation & Infrastructure

View a [list of opportunities](#) that have been released since December 16, 2014, as well as those expiring by January 26, 2015.

*Source: Van Ness Feldman LLP, 1/7/15*

## **Funding Opportunities, Upcoming Events, and News**

The Tribal Energy Program is pleased to share the following funding opportunities upcoming events, and news that may be of interest to tribes.

### **USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations Funding Opportunity**

**Applications Due: Jan. 23, 2015**

**Eligible Entities: All entities are eligible.**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Forest Service is seeking applications to substantially expand and accelerate wood energy and wood product markets throughout the United States to support forest management needs on National Forest System and other forest lands.

For more information, see the [funding opportunity description](#).

### **Southern California Edison Renewable Energy RFO**

**Applications Due: April 1, 2015**

**Eligible Entities: All entities are eligible**

SCE has issued a request for offers seeking up to 50 MW of renewable power from new distributed generating facilities to support SCE's Preferred Resources Pilot in central and south Orange County via power purchase agreements. Eligible projects must be at least 500 kW and connected to its distributed system in the area.

For more information, see the [funding opportunity description](#).

*Source: DOE Tribal Energy Program, 12/30/14*

**Find more [funding sources](#).**